

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 IO-10 /070 W
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P R 030650Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6412

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITYMOWQRU

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 1377

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP MY SN ID VS

SUBJ: MEETING WITH RANKING GVN FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL

REF: SAIGON 1067 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: IN MEETING WTH AMBASSADOR FEBRUARY 2, GVN FONMIN OFFICIAL GIANG STATED THAT, ASIDE FROM LAW OF WAR QUESTION, HE PLANNING DISCUSS WITH GOI OFFICIALS FEB 3 OVERALL SITUATION IN VIETNAM, REPORTS AUSTRALIA MAY EXTEND SOME FORM OF RECOGNITION TO PRG, AND POSSIBILITY OF RE-ESTABLISHING GVN-GOI RELATIONS AT CONGEN LEVEL. AMBASSADOR TOOK OCCASION TO BRIEF GIANG ON GOI VIEWS AND CONCERNS RE GVN AND ICCS. END SUMMARY

2. AMBASSADOR MET WITH GVN FONMIN NO 2 LE QUAN GIANG AFTERNOON FEBRUARY 2, SHORTLY AFTER LATTER'S ARRIVAL FOR TWO-DAY VISIT TO JAKARTA (REFTEL). GVN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REP NANG, WHO ALSO PRESENT, STATED GIANG TO MEET FEB 3 WITH FONMIN MALIK, FONDEPT DIRGEN FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS DJAJADININGRAT AND BAKIN(STATE INTELLIGENCE BOARD) DUPUTY GENERAL HERNOWO.

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3. DURING COURSE OF CONVERSATION GIANG STATED THAT, BESIDES PROXIMATE QUESTION OF INDONESIAN POSTURE VIS A VIS PRG OF LAW OF WAR CONFERENCE, HE HAD COME TO JAKARTA TO DISCUSS WITH GOI THREE MAJOR TOPICS:

A) OVERALL SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM, WITH EMPHASIS ON FACT THAT IT IS GVN WHICH HAS ATTEMPTED FAITHFULLY IMPLEMENT PARIS ACCORDS WITH CEASFIRE AND CALLS FOR ELECTIONS AND THAT PRESIDENT THIEU HAS CONSISTENTLY STATED HE NOT SEEKING MILITARY SETTLEMENT;

B) REPORTS THAT WHITLAM GOVERNMENT IS CONSIDERING OFFERING SOME SORT OF RECOGNITION TO PRG, WITH REQUEST THAT ASEAN GOVERNMENTS ADVISE GOA AGAINST SUCH A MOVE. IN RESPONSE AMBASSADOR'S QUESTION, GIANG STATED THAT HIS PRESENTATION THIS POINT WAS VERY SYMPATHETICALLY RECEIVED IN KUALA LUMPUR. IN SINGAPORE, FONMIN RAJARATNAM, WHILE AVERRING GOS WOULD NEVER RECOGNIZE PRG AND OPINING THAT WHITLAM GOVERNMENT ALSO WOULD NOT, MADE NO COMMITMENT TO RAISE MATTER WITH GOA.

C) POSSIBILITY OF RE-ESTABLISHING GOI-GVN RELATIONS AT CONSULATE GENERAL LEVEL. GIANG CONFIRMED OUR IMPRESSION THAT UP TO 1973 SAIGON WAS INTERESTED ONLY AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL RELATIONS. HOWEVER, IN 1974 SAIGON CHANGED POSITION AND ROVING AMBASSADOR BUI DIEM SUGGESTED RETURN TO CONGEN LEVEL RELATIONS DURING HIS SEPTEMBER VISIT TO JAKARTA. GOI HAS NOT REPLIED, AND GIANG WISHES FOLLOW-UP APPROACH. IN AN ASIDE GIANG NOTED GVN BELIEVE RECENT NVN OFFENSES MAY HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH GOI SILENCE.

4. AT GIANG'S REQUEST AMBASSADOR OUTLINED GOI VIEWS TOWARDS GVN AS WE UNDERSTAND THEM, NOTING THAT GOI, WHILE INCLINED TOWARDS SAIGON IDEOLOGICALLY, FEARS THIEU GOVERNMENT IS NOT SUCCEEDING IN MOBILIZING POPULATION AGAINST ENEMY, RELIES TOO MUCH ON HEAVY MILITARY EQUIPMENT, DOES NOT FOLLOW "TERRITORIAL CONCEPT" WHICH WORKED IN INDONESIA, ETC, TO WHICH IS ADDED GOI CONCERN OVER CONSISTENCY OF WASHINGTON SUPPORT OF GVVVN. IN RESPONSE TO GIANG'S EXPOSITION OF UNFAIRNESS OF INDONESIAN AND IRANIAN DELEGATIONS TAKING INTERMEDIARY ATTITUDE IN ICCS WHILE HUNGARIANS AND POLES FIRMLY ALIGNED TO VIETNAMESE COMMUNISTS,

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AMBASSADOR EXPLAINED HISTORICAL AND POLITICAL RATIONALE BEHIND GOI'S NEUTRAL POSITION, NOTING THAT ALL EVIDENCE POINTS TO CONCLUSION PRESIDENT SUHARTO HIMSELF HAS LAID DOWN POLICY LINES FOR INDONESIAN POSITION VIS A VIS GVN AND ICCS. HE MADE CLEAR EMBASSY DOES NOT AGREE WITH GOI RATIONALE.

5. AMBASSADOR AND GIANG DISCUSSED BRIEFLY UPCOMING

GOI-GVN CONTINENTAL SHELF TALKS WHICH GIANG INDICATED HE WAS NOT PLANNING ON RAISING WITH GOI OFFICIALS. AMBASSADOR SAID IT APPEARS THERE TWO STRANDS OF THOUGHT IN GOI WITH PERTAMINA (STATE OIL) OFFICIALS TAKING HARD LINE WHILE MILITARY MORE DISPOSED TO COMPROMISE, ADDING GVN SHOULD NOT EXPECT TOO MUCH OF FORTHCOMING MEETING BUT RATHER VIEW IT AS FIRST OF SERIES. GIANG REPLIED THAT GVN DISLIKED "FAIT ACCOMPLI" BUT WAS WILLING TO NEGOTIATE WITH NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES, AND WOULD NOT EXPECT TOO MUCH OF INITIAL MEETING.

6. COMMENT: BELIEVE MEETING PROVIDED USEFUL OPPORTUNITY FOR US TO LEARN REASONS FOR GIANG'S TRIP AND ALSO TO PROVIDE HIM WITH RELATIVELY UNVARNISHED PICTURE OF GOI CONCERNS OVER VIETNAM, WHICH RELATIVELY UNFORCEFUL NANG MAY NOT HAVE FULLY PRESENTED. NEWSOM

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